

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05

OMB-01 INSE-00 PASS-00 AID-05 IGA-01 SS-15 L-02 /084 W

----- 047702

R 251440Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL CALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1335

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSULATE MEDELLIN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS CALI 0188

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO DEA AND INS, MIAMI; BOGOTA AND
CARACAS ALSO FOR DEA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SNAR, CO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE USE OF CARGO FLIGHTS TO SMUGGLE PERSONS AND
NARCOTICS

1. FOLLOWING UP ON INFORMATION RECEIVED LAST WEEK, CONSULATE
OFFICERS MET ON 24 APRIL WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AN AIRLINE
AGENCY AND A CARGO AGENT TO DISCUSS RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING
PASSENGERS CARRIED ABOARD CHARTERED CARGO PLANES LEAVING
CALI FOR FOREIGN DESTINATIONS. TWO PERSONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED
RECENTLY TO THE U. S. IN THIS MANNER, AND A THIRD PERSON
WAS INTERCEPTED BY COLOMBIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AT THE
LAST MOMENT.

2. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IT IS COMMON PRACTICE FOR LOCAL
CARGO AGENCIES TO SEND AN AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE ALONG ON
SOME CARGO FLIGHTS TO HANDLE LANDING ARRANGEMENTS AT DESTINATION.
SUCH PERSONS ARE LISTED ON AIRCRAFT MANIFESTS AS CREW MEMBERS.
IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT FAVORED CUSTOMERS ARE ALSO CARRIED
AS "CREW" ON CARGO FLIGHTS, FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS MADE
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BETWEEN CARGO AGENCY AND AIRCRAFT CHARTER COMPANY OR PILOT.

3. ON MARCH 26 DURING LATE NIGHT HOURS COLOMBIAN IMMIGRATION AGENTS AT CALI'S PALMASECA AIRPORT STOPPED SUCH A CHARTER CARGO FLIGHT FROM TAKING OFF. DISCOVERED ON THE PLANE WAS A COLOMBIAN WOMAN WHO HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED THROUGH COLOMBIAN IMMIGRATIONS INSPECTION. IT DEVELOPED THAT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CARGO AGENCY HAD FORGED A LETTER TO THE AIRCRAFT COMPANY CERTIFYING THAT THE WOMAN WAS A VALUED CUSTOMER OF THE AGENCY AND REQUESTING SHE BE CARRIED ABOARD TO MIAMI. THE EMPLOYEE HAS SINCE BEEN FIRED, BUT THE POTENTIAL FOR FRAUD WITHIN THIS ALREADY HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE SYSTEM IS OBVIOUS. EQUALLY CLEAR IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS COULD BE CARRIED AS SUPERNUMERARIES IN THIS FASHION.

4. IT APPEARS THAT AT CALI IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF PERSONNEL AND CARGO ABOARD SUCH FLIGHTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE DEPARTING AT NIGHT, IS LAX OR NON-EXISTENT. THE WOMAN INTERCEPTED ON MARCH 26 WAS CAUGHT ONLY BECAUSE AN AIRLINE EMPLOYEE AT THE AIRPORT INFORMED THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES OF HER PRESENCE ABOARD.

5. ACTION REQUESTED--- FOR DEA BOGOTA: PLEASE ADVISE CONSULATE WHETHER CLOSE INSPECTION OF CARGO AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES. IF SO, IT WOULD APPEAR PROCEDURES HAVE SLIPPED BADLY AT CALI, AND CONSULATE PROPOSES TO TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE LOCAL OFFICIALS BASED ON BOGOTA DISCUSSIONS.

---FOR INS/DEA MIAMI: IN VIEW OF APPARENT LAX CONTROL OVER CARGO FLIGHTS FROM CALI TO MIAMI (AVERAGE OF 6 PER WEEK) CONSULATE RECOMMENDS PARTICULARLY CLOSE INSPECTION FOR SUCH INCOMING FLIGHTS. KERR

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED INS MIAMI.

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